Plantation of environmentally useful trees

†1423. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that trees have been cut on a large scale at many places in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to encourage the people to plant the trees which are useful from environmental point of view; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no report with the Central Government about large scale cutting of trees in the country. However, in cases of illegal felling of trees, action is taken by the State Government concerned under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant Acts for the time being in force.

The Central/State Governments have taken steps under various plan schemes to plant trees on Government and private lands with a view to increasing the forests/tree cover and to ensure amelioration of environment. The total State sector outlays for forests during the year 2000-2001, as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 1393 crores, around 60% of which is spent on afforestation and regeneration activities. An amount of Rs. 500 crores has also been allocated for implementation of afforestation projects in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan through the National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Environmental clearance to projects

1424. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.